THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As part of the National Action Plan for Tourism the Government intends to make available multi-lingual tourist information service in a phased manned in various tourist outlets such as hotels, airports and tourist offices.

Construction of Cable Cart Route Between Guwahati and Umananda

1700. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for construction of a cable cart route between Guwahati and Umananda Island in Assam;

(b) whether the administrative and financial sanction has been given by the Government ; and

(c) if not, since when has the proposal been pending for approval with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vayudoot Service to Tuticorin

1701. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 640 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 1992 and state :

(a) whether the Vayudoot service in the Tamil Nadu will be extended to Tuticorin during the current year itself ; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Yes, Sir. Vayudoot has started its servces to Tuticorin on the route Madras-Tuticorin-Madras.

(b) Does not arise.

Steep fall in Number of People travelling by Air India

1702. SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep fill in the number of persons travelling by Air India, recently ;

(b) whether this is mainly because of serious deterioration in the quality of services and maintenance of Aircraft run by Air India ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve passenger services and the image of our International Airline ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. During the period January—March, 1992 Air India carried 27% more passengers compared to corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Air India has decided to have a more modern and younger fleet in the coming years. Corporate strategy has been finalised to upgrade the areas of consumer contact, provision of comprehensive package of services to the customer and increasing the efficiency of operation.

Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations

@1703. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow the private sector

@Previously Unstarred Question 1082, transferred from the 6th May, 1992.

to participate in the setting up, management and operation of Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines laid down for their identity, recognition and authorisation;

(c) what are the differentiates between Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations, serialwise;

(d) what facilities, Incentives, Coordination including Railway land on Licence/ Lease. Government propose to restore/ provide to private parties to make this venture successful; and

(e) what are the names and details of authoritits empowered for coordination, assistance and recognition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broadly, the guidelines stipulate that there should be proper justification in the form of comprehensive survey report for setting up Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Container Freight Station (CFS). The entrepreneur desirous of setting up the facility should have sound financial standing, experience and must create proper infrastructure for an ICD/CFS.

(c) According to the guidelines, an ICD is a place where containers are aggregated for onward movement to or from the ports whereas CFS is a place where containers are packed and unpacked and aggregation/ segregation of Cargo takes place. An ICD may have CFS attached to it.

(d) No special facilities or incentives are proposed to be provided.

(e) An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to all proposals for setting up of ICDs/ CFSs. The Committee consists of officials from the Minstries of Commerce, Surface Transport, Railways, Finance (Revenue).

Green Week Organised in Berlin

1704. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Indian agricultural and horticultural products displayed at the 'Green Week' event organised in Berlin, recently;

(b) what was the response of other participants towards Indian products;

(c) whether there is any invitation for Indian participation in such agricultural fairs in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), alongwith a few exporters, had participated in this fair and displayed various items like mango pulp, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, spices, papads, canned mushroom, cashew, tomato ketch up, banana pulp, etc. These products were generally well received by other participants. However, as no retail sales were made by Indian exporters, consumer response to the products displayed could not be assessed.

(c) and (d) Participation in international trade fairs is a continuous process and a decision is taken in each case on merits and resource availability.

Proposal for Development of Rubber Industry

1705. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to develop rubber industry in recent times;